

ATLAS OF ROENTGENOGRAPHIC POSITIONS. By Vinita Merrill, formerly Educational Director of Picker X-Ray Corporation. In two volumes. C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$30.00.

This is a 680-page work illustrating the various positions used in roentgenographic examination of the human body. It is quite monumental in scope and deals with both elementary and moderately advanced roentgenographic technique. There are several hundred illustrations, many of them technically very good. It is to be regretted that these illustrations are not numbered, since several appear on a single page in some portions of the book. This makes ready reference to a certain figure somewhat troublesome.

There is nothing particularly new in the book. Indeed, in format, content and general makeup it is apparently based on the excellent "Positioning in Radiography" by K. C. Clark, issued by the same publishing firm in 1939. The latter had the advantage of being a single volume work, and all of the illustrations were numbered.

Some rarely used techniques are illustrated. One of these deals with the measurement of differences of leg length (page 244). It is rather curious that the author neglected to mention the use of scanograms for this purpose. Among somewhat new and unproven techniques illustrated by the author is one for alleged demonstration of the posterior costal articulations. It would seem to this reviewer that stereoscopy should aid considerably in this particular problem, and that the experimental nature of the projections which are illustrated might be stressed, inasmuch as these joints are notoriously difficult to project on two-dimensional records.

In the chapter on cerebral pneumography the diagrams showing the ventricular system are too small to be of value; no mention is made of the use of small amounts of air for this particular technical procedure. The book was apparently completed before realization of the availability of rapid film-changing devices or the roll film (Fairchild) camera for serial angiographic studies.

The text is clear. Most of the illustrations are good. The book will be of some value to larger x-ray departments which do not have a copy of the Clark text available.

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INDUSTRIAL TOXICOLOGY. By Lawrence T. Fairhall, Scientist Director, Public Health Service, Federal Security Agency. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$6.00.

This book has been written in response to many requests for information concerning the toxicity of new as well as old substances of industrial importance. Its purpose is to serve as a bridge between the rapidly expanding field of toxicological investigation and the application of this knowledge of industrial poisons by the industrial hygienist.

Many of the substances described are not poisons in the usual sense. Indeed, some are not toxic at all. These represent materials newly used in industry, however, and concerning which some doubt has existed.

The book is arranged in two parts, the first part dealing with inorganic substances, and these are listed in alphabetical order. Part II takes up the carbon compounds, and here again they are listed in alphabetical order. Each specific substance is discussed under the headings characteristics, industrial uses, toxicity, and analysis. At the end of the discussion of each substance there is a reference list. Each particular subject is treated succinctly and Dr. Fairhall has avoided discussing the opinions of others, therefore adhering to brevity.

As Dr. Fairhall himself intimates in his preface, the book has been streamlined for the industrial hygienist, and for him it will be of definite value. On the other hand, the general practitioner or industrial physician will not find that it gives him sufficient clinical information.

PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE—The Clinical Application of Psychopathology to General Medical Problems. By Edward Weiss, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, Temple University Medical School, Philadelphia, and O. Spurgeon English, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Temple University Medical School, Philadelphia. Second edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$9.50.

This standard book in its new edition is an improved effort to get the practicing physician to more completely understand his patient. The emphasis is placed on the emotional factors in disease to counterbalance the still present overemphasis on the physiochemical and surgical aspects of illness. Attention is primarily directed to the large group of patients, perhaps one-third of the patients in most practices, who have no significant organic basis for their complaints, and to another third with significant organic disease who have an important emotional factor involved which materially aggravates the disability. One cannot practice medicine without practicing psychosomatic medicine.

In addition to orienting one in a reasonable manner to this larger view of the patient's difficulty, the practitioner has shown us how harm comes to the patient by improper handling of the patient's problem. Iatrogenic illness is still a significant cause of morbidity.

While this is not a book on psychiatry, there is sufficient psychiatric information given to enable one to adequately understand the emotional and mental factors in the patient's illness in the light of our present knowledge. Techniques for diagnosis are outlined and discussed. Psychotherapy is discussed in general and specific methods are given. The reader will find a host of specific diseases which are discussed from the standpoint of the effects of the emotions upon the disease or the prolongation of the disability. These include diseases relating to the heart, hypertension, indigestion, peptic ulcer, ulcerative colitis, arthritis, allergy, and backache. An excellent brief discussion is given of the male climacteric which will give the needle-happy practitioners cause for pause.

The authors give ample evidence of being capable practicing physicians who have interested themselves in a difficult field without going off on the tangent of unduly emphasizing the emotional factors in disease. This is a book which can be read with considerable profit by interns, residents, general practitioners, and specialists.

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THE VALUE OF HORMONES IN GENERAL PRACTICE. By W. N. Kemp, M.D., Vancouver, B. C., Burgess Publishing Co., 426 S. Sixth St., Minneapolis 15, Minn. 1949.

Dr. Kemp's ring-bound mimeo-form outline is commended by its small size (115 pages including selected references) and by the fact that it offers, in addition to such non-clinical topics as "iodine deficiency diseases in domestic animals," a number of useful suggestions for the practicing physician who sees an occasional instance of endocrine disease. In the section on adrenal hypofunction, for example, the author has thoughtfully included a list of emergency equipment which the Addisonian patient should keep on hand, and a good outline for the treatment of crises arising in the patient with and without previously implanted pellets of desoxycorticosterone.

The endocrinologist will be distressed by several uncritical statements given as facts, and by the author's several minor deviations from present belief and therapeutic dosage (as of antithyroid drugs), by the occasional errors of omission (Adrenocorticotropin hormone test for adrenal insufficiency, protein-bound iodine determinations) and commission (typographical errors). The author enthusiastically supports the syndrome of "status lymphaticus" and believes that it is endemic in all goiter districts, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. He believes that "status lymphaticus" is not primarily related to the thymus, but is in reality a condition of functional imbalance involving primarily the newly devel-